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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON UNSC RESOLUTION ON DPRK MISSILE
LAUNCHES

¶1. This is an action request) see para 3.

¶2. On July 4 and 5, North Korea (DPRK) launched at least seven ballistic missiles, including the intercontinental-range Taepo Dong 2, in spite of repeated warnings by the international community not to engage in such an activity. The UN Security Council met on July 5 to consider a Japanese-sponsored resolution that condemns the launches, determines that these launches constitute a threat to international peace and security, decides that the DPRK shall cease ballistic missile development, testing, deployment and proliferation, decides that Member States shall not contribute to the DPRK's missile and other WMD programs through the transfer of financial resources, material or technology, and urges the DPRK to return to the Six-Party talks. While initial discussions in the Council were fruitful, Department believes that it is important to approach UNSC member governments to emphasize the importance of an immediate UNSC Chapter VII resolution, the fact that a Presidential Statement (PRST) is not a sufficient response, and the need to send a clear and unambiguous message to the DPRK concerning its conduct. During initial consultations, Russia and China opposed discussion of a draft resolution and Argentina expressed doubt as to whether a resolution was necessary as opposed to a PRST or press statement and stressed the need for Council unanimity. The UNSC will continue its discussions on the draft resolution on Thursday, July 6.

¶3. Action Request: Action addressees are requested to demarche host governments at the highest level available on short notice, using the attached talking points, to stress the importance of the UNSC adopting a strong resolution deploring the DPRK's provocative conduct and requesting that their UN delegation cooperate with the U.S., Japan, and other Council members in reaching agreement on a draft text during discussions on July 6. Please slug responses to IO/UNP and EAP/K.

14. Begin talking points.

-- On July 4 and 5, the DPRK launched seven ballistic missiles, including the intercontinental-range Taepo Dong-2, in spite of repeated warnings against this action by the international community.

-- North Korea's development, deployment and proliferation of ballistic missiles, missile-related materials, equipment, and technology pose a serious threat to the region and to the international community at large.

-- The Taepo Dong-1 missile launch by the DPRK in 1998 was correctly regarded as a serious matter. The launches this week are even more serious.

-- North Korea's actions this week violate its moratorium on missile launches, which it reaffirmed most recently in 2004. They are also inconsistent with the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement, in which all Six Parties committed to joint efforts for lasting peace and security in Northeast Asia. These launches further call into question North Korea's willingness to achieve a diplomatic solution to eliminating its nuclear programs.

-- North Korea's pursuit of multiple ballistic missile systems of increasingly longer ranges is of even greater concern given North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

-- We believe it is critical that the UN Security Council send an immediate, clear, and unambiguous message that this provocative conduct is insupportable by passing a strong, legally-binding resolution expressing the condemnation of the international community for the DPRK's action.

-- We want to send a strong and unanimous signal that this behavior is unacceptable. Unanimity by the Security Council is important but cannot be allowed to undermine the need to send a message that is unmistakably clear.

-- We ask that your delegation be fully involved in the discussions on the text of the resolution. The UNSC held initial discussions on July 5 and will continue its consultations on July 6.

(Additional points for Buenos Aires only)

-- We are concerned that your delegation indicated that it might be willing to settle for something less than a resolution.

-- Unanimity by the Security Council is important but cannot be allowed to undermine the need to send a message that is unmistakably clear. We ask you to work with us to obtain a strong resolution.

(Additional points for Moscow only)

-- We concur with your comments that the events of this week mark a clear difference from that of 1998. They involve the much longer range of the Taepo Dong-2, multiple launches of different ballistic missile systems, violation of North Korea's missile moratorium, and comes at a time when the DPRK possesses nuclear weapons and is pursuing even greater nuclear and other WMD capabilities.

-- These factors make the DPRK's action a threat to every state in the Asia-Pacific region as well as to international security. We hope you will work with us to make clear to Pyongyang that this is simply unacceptable by supporting a strong resolution.

(Additional points for Beijing only)

-- We agree completely with your delegation's statement that the Security Council must send a united, strong, firm, clear and quick message to the DPRK.

-- It is especially important that the resolution that comes out of our discussions send exactly this kind of message, one that demands that the DPRK return to the Six Party Talks and heed the call of the international community.

-- As we have indicated, we want to proceed in a calm and deliberate fashion. But the end goal has to be a resolution that sends a strong, unanimous signal from the Security Council that behavior like that exhibited by the DPRK is simply unacceptable to the world.

RICE

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